

# **Joint Legislative Study Committee on Veterans' Facilities**

## ***Final Report***

December 2000

Accession number: LSC00\_7

Note: Original document of poor quality: best possible microfilm.

Microfilm produced by the Records Management Center,  
Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

25 1.3

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE  
ON VETERANS' FACILITIES**

**FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**DECEMBER 2000**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Senator Darden Hamilton, Co-chair  
Senator Keith Bee  
Senator Herb Guenther  
Patrick Chorpenning  
Peter D. Duerr  
Gil LaMontagne**

**Representative Gail Griffin, Co-chair  
Representative Barbara Blewster  
Representative Debora Norris  
Mary Ellen Piotrowski  
Ralph C. Warra**

ARCHIVED COPY  
JAN 22 2002

# **JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' FACILITIES**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Committee Charge**

Laws 2000, Chapter 180, established the Joint Legislative Study Committee on Veterans' Facilities, effective until December 31, 2000. The Committee consists of: (a) three members from each of the Senate and House of Representatives; (b) four public members appointed by the Governor representing different veterans' organizations; and (c) the Director of the Department of Veterans' Services (DVS). The Committee is charged with:

1. Studying the feasibility of establishing a veterans' home in Tucson; and
2. Studying the feasibility of establishing a veterans' cemetery in northern Arizona.

The Committee is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2000.

### **Committee Discussion**

The Committee met two times, once on September 26<sup>th</sup> and again on November 29<sup>th</sup>. (A meeting scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> did not occur due to a lack of quorum.)

*September 26, 2000 –*

At the first meeting, Committee members met at the Arizona State Veterans' Home in Phoenix to (1) tour the home, and (2) hear presentations from the DVS on proposals to construct a veterans' home in Tucson and a state cemetery in northern Arizona. Committee discussion is elaborated upon in the attached committee minutes.

After the tour of the Phoenix Home, the Committee heard from the Director of the DVS on state veteran population demographics (see attachment A). Next, the Chief Financial Officer of the DVS presented a proposed timeline on funding and construction of both the home in Tucson and the cemetery in northern Arizona (see attachment B). Discussion occurred over whether to endorse this time line or move it forward one year, eliminating the suggested needs assessment and accompanying request for appropriation.

The Administrator of the Arizona State Veterans' Home in Phoenix presented information next on the mission statement of the DVS, particularly as it relates to the Veterans' Home. Cost, needs and funding issues of the home were discussed as well as proposed plans for constructing a similar home in Tucson (see attachments C and D).

Next, the Project Manager for the State Veterans' Cemetery in Sierra Vista presented information on state veterans' cemetery issues, including program history, funding, site selection criteria and environmental compliance (See attachments E and F). Among other issues, the Committee discussed the need to create an Arizona state cemetery fund to utilize monies previously appropriated for the Sierra Vista cemetery that will be reimbursed by the federal government. Discussion also occurred regarding the site location of the proposed northern Arizona cemetery.

While Committee members agreed a second meeting was necessary to discuss the site location for the northern Arizona cemetery, a tentative recommendation was adopted to go forward with the cemetery and to establish a non-reverting cemetery fund. The Committee also adopted a recommendation to move forward with the Arizona Veterans' Home in Tucson. It was recommended that legislation be drafted with an unspecified appropriation to commence construction and show good faith on the State's part to the federal government.

*November 16, 2000 –*

This meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The meeting was rescheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>.

*November 29, 2000 –*

The DVS presented information on possible sites for the state cemetery in northern Arizona. Land options discussed included private land, national forest property, state trust land and military property (See attachment G). The Committee was advised that since the last meeting four bill files have been opened with Legislative Counsel, one in each chamber for the Tucson Home and northern Arizona cemetery. (See the attached minutes for an elaboration of Committee discussion.)

Motions were adopted to:

1. Continue the bill folders on the Tucson Home and go forward with fund raising activities, and
2. Move forward with the northern Arizona cemetery site and continue the cemetery fund as a revolving fund.

### **Committee Recommendations**

The Committee adopted the following recommendations:

1. Construct a State Veterans' Home in Tucson, similar to the home in Phoenix, on land adjacent to the current V.A. Medical Center in Tucson. An unspecified appropriation will be requested during the 2001 Legislative Session.
2. Construct a State Veterans' Cemetery in northern Arizona. Site selection will be determined by the DVS. An unspecified appropriation will be requested during the 2001 Legislative Session.

### **Attachments**

The following documents are attached to this report:

- Minutes from the September 26<sup>th</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup> meetings
- Attachment A – Arizona Veteran Population Demographics
- Attachment B – Proposed Veterans' Facilities Timeline
- Attachment C – The DVS Mission Statement and Veterans' Home Overview
- Attachment D – Map of Proposed State Veterans' Home Tucson Site
- Attachment E – State Cemetery Grants Service Overview
- Attachment F – Southern Arizona State Cemetery Overview
- Attachment G – Northern Arizona Cemetery Site Selection Options

## **MINUTES**

**CORRECTED \*\*\* CORRECTED \*\*\* CORRECTED**

**ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE**

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE  
ON VETERANS' FACILITIES**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2000**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Liberty Hall, Arizona State Veterans' Home  
4141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ**

**Members Present:**

Senator Darden Hamilton, Cochair  
Senator Herb Guenther  
Patrick Chorpenning  
Gil LaMontagne  
Ralph C. Waara

Representative Gail Griffin, Cochair  
Representative Barbara Blewster  
Peter D. Duerr  
Mary Ellen Piotrowski

**Members Absent:**

Senator Keith Bee

Representative Debora Norris

**Staff:**

Debbie Johnston, Senate Appropriations Analyst  
Larry Chesley, House Analyst  
Jennifer Daily, House Analyst

Representative Griffin called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. She had everyone participating in the discussion introduce themselves. In addition to the aforementioned committee members, the following were present: Commissioner Terry Nolan, representing Vietnam Veterans; Commissioner Robert Bohach, representing the First Marine Corps Division; Commissioner Bill Thompson, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars; John Tucker, Administrator, Arizona State Veterans' Home; Fred Ferguson, Deputy Director, Department of Veterans' Services; Gabriel M. Forsberg, Department of Veterans Services; Matt Winfrey, Auditor General's Office; Paul Fictum, CFO, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services; Pat Chorpenning, Director, Department of Veterans Services; and Jim Ledy, Chairman, UAV.

Representative Griffin stated it is a pleasure to be at the Veterans' Home to discuss the issues and the feasibility of building a Veterans' Home in Tucson and a cemetery in northern Arizona. She added the Committee must have a report by December 1, 2000.

The meeting **RECESSED** at 11:20 a.m. for a tour of the facility.

The meeting **RECONVENED** at 11:55 a.m.

Representative Griffin thanked Mr. Fictum and Mr. Chorpenning for the very informative tour of the home.

## **Southern Arizona Veterans' Home Proposal**

Mr. Chorpenning called attention to a handout entitled "Arizona Veteran Population Demographics" (Attachment A), which provides the demographics of the veteran population of Arizona. He stated that the numbers have been provided by the Veterans' Administration, and represent those veterans who have applied for some type of service. He noted the 500,000 veterans living in the State of Arizona bring \$1.7 billion to the State.

**Paul Fictum, CFO, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)**, stated the handout entitled "Veterans' Facilities Summary Timeline" (Attachment B) gives a general idea of what the DVS is doing over the next four years. He summarized the items listed on page 1 of the handout, noting that legislation will be introduced in 2005 to appropriate the "start up" monies for the veterans' home in Tucson. Mr. Fictum said that the monies spent by the State to build the veterans' home are to be reimbursed by the Federal Government. He noted that the estimates on page 2 are based on the figures of the Phoenix Veterans' Home, and although costs will have increased slightly, the architectural plans and design documents will be the same for the Tucson home, and by using those, it will be a cost savings. Mr. Fictum said the Federal share is 65% of the amount or roughly \$9.2 million, and the State would provide 35% or roughly \$5 million.

Mr. Fictum directed attention to page 3 and discussed the cemetery. Again, the plans to be used are based on the existing design plans for the southern Arizona cemetery. The costs of the cemetery are reimbursable from 95% to 100% of the costs listed and the Veterans' Administration (VA) will also fund 100% of the construction costs. Page 4 describes the annual operating cost estimate for the proposed northern Arizona cemetery. He said the budget has just been prepared for presentation to the Legislature during the upcoming Session, and the costs of the cemetery have been included.

Representative Blewster queried if there were veterans or family members who volunteer to help maintain the cemetery. Mr. Fictum said the budget had not considered volunteer workers or the time donated. He said there might be some volunteerism that would offset the cost of maintenance.

Representative Blewster asked how many cemeteries were planned in the long run for Arizona, how many plots were in each cemetery, and how many beds there would be in the hospital. Mr. Fictum replied that Ms. Forsberg would provide an in-depth analysis of those issues later in the presentation.

Mr. Chesley said he would strongly recommend moving the dates down one place in the suggested timeline, and applying for the design and construction costs for the home in Tucson now rather than waiting two years. He said it should not be necessary to do an assessment, but it is necessary to promote the idea to the Legislature.

**Mr. Bill Thompson** responded to Representative Blewster, and said the veteran population is "getting old" and it is not feasible for seventy-year old men to plant and remove the flags, or to do the honor guard, as they do not have the stamina. He strongly commends the members of the VFW and American Legion who have performed these services, but they will not be able to do them much longer. The military services have decided to provide honor guards from the active duty rolls. Mr. Thompson said he has been present at times when fifth, sixth and seventh graders have placed and picked up the flags, and he thinks would be a possible source of help.



Representative Griffin said the volunteerism should be encouraged, but not expected.

Mr. Chesley stated that he is the only Vietnam veteran in the five organizations to which he belongs, and there are not many Korean veterans in those organizations. He believes that the organizations will "die" soon, as the veterans from World War II are the mainstay of the organizations. Mr. Chesley noted the Korean and Vietnam veterans did not get the recognition the World War II veterans did and therefore, are not interested.

Mr. Waara supported Mr. Thompson's statement and added that the average age of 55% of the World War II veterans is 75; the average age of the Korean veteran is 65, and the average age of the Vietnam veteran is 54.

Mr. Chorpensing stated there could be an offset to the \$55,000 mentioned by Mr. Fictum, based on a plot allowance of \$150.00 which is received from the VA for a veteran who served during war time and is being interred in the cemetery. Many of the service organizations are lobbying to have that figure raised to \$400. Mr. Fictum's presentation gave the worst case scenario for revenue offset and shows the maximum amount for costs involved. He noted there are also some other things to offset construction of the home.

Mr. Chorpensing said the World War II veteran is dying at a rate of 1,600 per day across the United States. The World War II population will "die out" between 2002 and 2005. He said the Korean veterans often served in World War II as well, and must be included in the projections anticipating the number of necessary cemetery plots. He said there is a great need to find places of honor in which to bury the veterans and the crises will hit between 2005 and 2006.

Senator Hamilton, cochair of the Committee, arrived and was introduced.

**John Tucker, Administrator, Arizona State Veterans' Home, Phoenix**, said most of his presentation had been received by those who took the tour, but he would like to make a few more points. He discussed the handout beginning with the Mission Statement of DVS (Attachment C) and said the Committee could read the contents at their leisure. Mr. Tucker referred to page 26, and said one of the questions he had heard on the tour was about the cost to the veteran. He noted the basic rate is \$128 per day, which is competitive in the community, and is low compared to charges for a similar home in the private sector. Mr. Tucker noted the total cost is \$46,720 per year. The VA contributes \$50.55 per veteran per day, and it is passed along to the veterans as a savings. The cost to the veteran becomes slightly over \$28,000 per year in the Veterans' Home. He responded to Representative Griffin's question about changes in the plans for the southern Arizona home to make things easier, and said the DVS would like to replicate the services it provides for the home in Tucson. The projected need is 1,200 beds. Mr. Tucker said the DVS would like to use the plans here and "drop" them on the campus of the Tucson Veterans Medical Center, which consists of 7.5 acres. It was noted there are three more acres available in Tucson, and will provide more parking so that will not be a problem as it is on the Phoenix campus. He referred the Committee to Attachment D, which is a map of the VA Medical Center in Tucson.

Mr. Tucker stated the DVS would like to provide long-term care, skill intervention, speech therapy services for acute needs, and Alzheimer's services. In addition, the facility would provide adult day health, which is where people come in for eight hours a day, one to five days a week, and receive socialization and attention from a podiatrist or other doctor, and a recreation program. He said this is a benefit to both the veteran and the caregiver at home. He noted a few changes were mentioned on the tour; the room in which this meeting is being

conducted was originally meant to be the dining area, which is not feasible. He pointed out some of the flaws, and stated there should be a dining room for the top two floors and one for the lower two floors. The second change will be removal of the desks from the rooms, which are rarely used. Mr. Tucker said the third change would be to provide a better track for residents to walk on. He noted that Alzheimer patients in particular like to circle. There are some logistical changes that may be made.

Mr. Tucker said there are some pre-opening activities planned, such as sharing with the Medical Center for protocols, and establishing a referral base to contact people and start the revenue flow. He said the opening of the adult day health program would be at least 90 days ahead of the nursing home. This will get people on the campus and familiarize them with the services DVS intends to offer. The third thing will be pre-opening publicity and staggering the opening of wings. Instead of hiring all of the staff at one time, they will staff the wings one at a time.

Responding to Representative Blewster, Mr. Tucker stated there are approximately .5 million veterans in southern Arizona.

Mr. Waara asked if the per diem continues as long as the veteran is here. Mr. Tucker said it does, but it is just for the veteran, not the spouse. Mr. Chesley stated that the amount of the federal per diem could go up. Mr. Chorpenning said the goal of the VA is to pay one-third of the cost of living for a veteran at a home. He said he believes the per diem will rise 75¢ per day this year. He also noted the 44<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session, allowed for a Veterans Donation Fund, which is invested through the State Treasurer so that it may earn interest. One of the goals is to use the Donation Fund to work with professional fund-raising corporations in a major capitol campaign to offset some of the costs. The federal government requires the 65/35 split, so it is necessary to put together a viable program to conduct an adequate capitol campaign.

Mr. Tucker stated per diem would be available for the adult day health center as well. Mr. Chorpenning confirmed the adult day health average rate is \$65.00 per day and the per diem is \$30.00. The DVS would be able to provide the adult day health for about \$35. He added it becomes a good revenue source after reaching a certain number of people. He said one of the problems is that adult day health is a well-kept secret in Maricopa County. The budget is based on the 190 individuals in the home, and no General Fund appropriation is received. The Legislature gives the Home spending authority to use the money from the veterans to maintain the facility. The key to adult day health is that it provides a system where a veteran is receiving care once or twice a week, and enables an easier move into the home when it is necessary for the veteran to receive full-time care. It also serves as a waiting list for future residents and needs of the facility.

### **Northern Arizona State Veterans' Cemetery Proposal**

**Gabriel Forsberg, Project Manager, Sierra Vista State Veterans' Cemetery**, distributed her handouts (Attachments E and F), and stated the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs State Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement the National Cemetery Administration. She noted that Arizona has one fully functioning veterans' cemetery in north Phoenix, which is available to Arizona veterans. Ms. Forsberg also stated that Prescott has a partially closed cemetery, which allows cremated remains only.

Ms. Forsberg said that in November, 1998, the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act authorized the federal government to pay up to 100% of the costs. Also in November, 1998, after a three-

year search for a site, Ft. Huachuca property was selected, and Ft. Huachuca documented its intention to transfer property to DVS for use as a veterans' cemetery. She said a tremendous amount of energy has been expended to get funding and obtain the legal authority to transfer the land. Ft. Huachuca needed to have the land condemned, and then traded off with the Department of the Army. This project has had many problems and the DVS should not try to look at federal land in the future.

Ms. Forsberg discussed Attachment F, noting the VA pays for 100% of allowable costs for design, construction, and administration; they pay for establishment of equipment, mowing and burial equipment, furniture and computers. Ms. Forsberg stated that the initial phase and equipment costs are picked up by the VA, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> phases, which will follow in 10-year increments, will not be funded for equipment. They no longer pay for land. The VA is doing closer scrutiny of costs; the states pay the initial design costs and are reimbursed for work completed.

Ms. Forsberg said the VA is going further into site selection. If there is need for environmental assessment, it will need to be a site selection from state land. She reviewed the other standards for site selection. She said there are contracts with the State Land Department, and certain criteria to get land. Environmental compliance is also necessary. Ms. Forsberg concluded that the procedure for the southern Arizona cemetery area is almost complete, and it is logical to be looking at northern Arizona. She added the Sierra Vista site is "gorgeous."

Representative Blewster asked how many plots there are in the cemetery in Sierra Vista. Ms. Forsberg replied there are 15,000 burial spaces; 2,600 in-ground plots and 2,600 spaces for cremated remains are included in phase one. She said veterans within a 75-miles radius must use the Sierra Vista cemetery. Once that is built, funding will be obtained for phases two and three.

In response to Representative Blewster, Ms. Forsberg said she is not sure if northern Arizona will be done in three phases. She indicated there might be a 20-year build out because there is so much land.

Senator Hamilton commented that many of those veterans who are eligible to be buried in Arizona choose to be buried in their home state. He asked if there are any statistics that would indicate how many choose not to leave their remains here.

Ms. Forsberg replied there is a formula, which calculates approximately 25%, would like to go to their home state. She said it is a complicated formula, but she has derived 519 interments per acre.

Mr. Thompson added that certain military personnel and holders of certain decorations are eligible to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, which may take some others away from Arizona.

Ms. Forsberg said that volunteers are needed for the Public Information Center (PIC) grave locator kiosk so that the facilities will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. She said there would be schools and groups that would help. Memorial Day and Veterans Day will be exceptionally busy days.

Mr. Chorpenning said there is a large amount of Native American property in northern Arizona, and many tribes have a large veteran population. The site should fall within the Four Sacred

Mountains so that the Native American Nations will feel comfortable with their deceased being buried there. He noted the Navajo territory extends through Arizona into New Mexico and there is an effort to determine how to trade State land for a portion of the Native American land. There will have to be some sort of agreement worked out that the Native American will carry out the maintenance and operation of their share of the cemetery.

#### **Tape 1, Side B**

Representative Griffin said there is a need to move forward on the proposals. She said the idea that the cemeteries are part of the reimbursable funding might make the idea of a second home and second cemetery salable to the Legislature.

**Terry Nolan, DVS, asked** if the bill to establish the Committee and funding is done on an annual basis, done during the budget year, or would it continue beyond the budget year. Representative Griffin answered that the Committee has a sunset date of December 31, 2000, but an extension could be requested. Mr. Chesley said the funding is non-lapsing, and the money that has not been spent would roll over.

Mr. Chorpenning said the initial funding was an appropriation of \$500,000 made during the 44<sup>th</sup> Legislature, First Regular Session. During the 44<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Second Regular Session, he had explained the project needed to be taken through the construction documents before the VA would step in. The Legislature allowed the \$252,800 to be taken from the Home's Contingency Fund and use it to reach the \$752,000 necessary for the construction document stage. Once the pre-application stage is completed, the land transferred and the bids awarded, the VA will begin funding the construction project, and will return the \$752,000, minus the amount of money DVS had to pay for the acquisition of the land. Mr. Chorpenning figured the State would receive between \$680,000 and \$700,000 back. \$252,800 will go back into the Home's Contingency Fund. The \$500,000 comes back to DVS, but it is the intent to transfer it back to the General Fund.

Mr. Chorpenning said in order to use that money, during this session, there needs to be an Arizona State Cemetery Fund created within the DVS, which will be non-lapsing, and used when the next project is to be funded. When completed, the Legislature could remove that fund and take the money back into the General Fund.

Senator Hamilton wondered if, when the new home is built, an additional contingency fund would be required.

Mr. Chorpenning replied the Contingency Fund was created from money that was a final payment from the federal government. There is no doubt that a contingency fund needs to be created for every facility. The \$252,800 should definitely be replaced in this Home's Contingency Fund, and he would need the Contingency Fund to be equal to six months of operation, or \$4.5 to 5 million. The statute requires this facility to be self-operating, in a proper business fashion. He said he does not have the kinds of fund necessary to replace a large project, such as the roof. He emphasized the Home belongs to the 190 men and women who live there, and DVS comes in to provide services. He also emphasized everyone present is a veteran and there needs to be a unified community to take care of veterans. He does not want to have the homes be known as the Phoenix Home or the Tucson home, but both will need to be under the control of the Department with the input of all service organizations and the Legislature. He said he thinks ultimately the Contingency Fund will apply to a Veteran Home Division, and it must be built up.

Mr. Chorpenning introduced Fred Ferguson, and said he is one of the 151 individuals still living who are recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. He is Deputy Director of the Department of Veterans Services, and handles the Veterans Services Division.

Representative Griffin asked if there is anyone present who does not believe the Committee should go forward with the recommendations.

Representative Blewster asked for discussion on where the cemetery will be placed. Representative Griffin stated she believed there will be two motions on each issue, and the location of the cemetery is to be determined, which can be included in the motion. She said she would like to move the proposal for the southern Arizona Veterans' Home forward.

Senator Guenther stated the Committee needs to request the \$100,000 in FY2002 to conduct a needs assessment concerning the veterans' home in Tucson and the veterans' cemetery located in northern Arizona.

Mr. Chorpenning said when the timeline is pulled together, the project will be studied and it will be determined whether or not a needs assessment is necessary. He said based on the information that has been presented, he is not sure a needs assessment is necessary. It has been demonstrated the need exists. He opined the Department needs authority to move forward in these areas: to work with the Legislature on legislation, and to start the dialogue with the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Congressional delegation.

Representative Griffin reminded them this is a budget year, and she would hate to place the bill in a non-budget year. She said she would like to go forward with the recommendations now, and get the information and a package together to present to the up-coming Legislative session.

Senator Guenther said the money shows the faith of the State for funding the negotiations and whatever amount of money is appropriate to demonstrate that should be put forward.

Mr. Chorpenning agreed with Senator Guenther. He needs to be able to deal with the VA, and needs the appropriation to move forward. He stated if it is the desire of the Committee, he will get together with the Legislative Counsel to open a bill file, and develop the bill with the proper appropriation. He said he thinks there should be a follow-up meeting to be sure everyone is in agreement.

**Representative Griffin moved the Committee recommend a bill to be crafted for an unspecified appropriation with which to begin negotiations with the federal government for the southern Arizona Veterans' Home. The motions CARRIED by voice vote.**

Representative Griffin said the second motion should be to go forward with the northern Arizona cemetery, with the location to be determined, and that the location will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting. She stated at that time the Committee will determine the feasibility of continuing. Mr. Chorpenning asked if the motion could include non-reverting cemetery funds.

**Representative Griffin moved the Committee recommend going forward with the northern Arizona Cemetery, the location of which will be determined and provided at the next meeting. It was further recommended**

**that a non-reverting cemetery fund be established. The motion CARRIED by voice vote.**


Mr. Chorpenning clarified he would be opening four file folders for the bills, two in the Senate and two in the House of Representatives, and that Senators Hamilton and Guenther and Representatives Griffin and Blewster would be the primary sponsors.

Representative Blewster questioned the aspects that are studied when searching for a site on which to place a Veterans' Home. Mr. Chorpenning replied his experience with the Sierra Vista cemetery is not one he cares to repeat. That project has been a nightmare simply because of dealing with the military. He said the lay of the land is the primary concern. He said they will also look for a location with water availability. He has found out what not to do, and plans to stay away from land that belongs to a military installation or the Department of Defense. He commented there is a lot of land in the northern part of the State to study. He will bring back three to five potential sites to discuss at the next meeting.

Representative Griffin said there may also be developers who will want to donate the land. She thanked everyone for coming and participating. There will be another meeting during the month of November.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen Neuberg  
Committee Secretary

(Tape and attachments on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 113.)

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE  
Forty-fourth Legislature – Second Regular Session

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE  
ON VETERANS' FACILITIES**

Minutes of Meeting  
Wednesday, November 29, 2000  
Senate Hearing Room 109 – 11:00 a.m.

(Tape 1, Side A)

Co-Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and the secretary noted the attendance.

**Members Present**

Senator Bee  
Senator Guenther  
Patrick Chorpenning  
Peter Duerr

Representative Griffin, Co-Chairman  
Representative Blewster  
Mary Ellen Piotrowski  
Ralph Waara

**Members Absent**

Senator Hamilton, Co-Chairman  
Gil LaMontagne

Representative Norris

**Speakers**

Tammy Vogel, Contract Management Specialist, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS)

Larry Chesley, Research Analyst, House of Representatives

Co-Chairman Griffin asked the Members if they wished to comment on the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Mr. Chorpenning moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. The motion carried.**

Tammy Vogel, Contract Management Specialist, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS), distributed and presented a document on site selection (Attachment 1) and supplemented this document after the meeting (Attachment 2). In response to questions posed by the Committee, Ms. Vogel added:

- The Township Act makes allowance to purchase property up to 640 acres, which is in excess of what ADVS has contemplated utilizing. She added that it would be necessary for someone to support a bill for an act of Congress.
- ADVS can work with the national level and determine the death projections for Northern Arizona to decide how much acreage would be adequate.

Ms. Blewster asked who would prepare a letter encouraging the Arizona Congressional delegation to pursue such a bill. Co-Chairman Griffin stated that the Committee could make a recommendation. Mr. Chorpenning explained how ADVS recently worked through a similar process in having acreage transferred to them from the Arizona Department of Defense and how that was facilitated. He further explained that, upon a recommendation from the Committee, he would be happy to contact Carl D. Commenator, General Counsel-in-Chief to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, who would then begin the process for the upcoming congressional session in January 2001. Ms. Blewster stated that she could not support any plan that would further reduce the percentage of private land. She added that it would be "wonderful" to secure federal for this project. Co-Chairman Griffin noted that if State land were sought, then it would have to be "auctioned" in which case, the Department of Veterans Services might lose the property to a higher bidder.

Larry Chesley, Research Analyst, House of Representatives, stated that he had not yet opened bill folders, which is a necessary first step in this or any proposal. He added that he would most likely open a bill folder subsequent to the meeting. Mr. Chorpenning stated that, after the Committee's first meeting, it was his understanding that he was to meet with Legislative Counsel and open four bill folders, two in the House and two in the Senate under the following sponsors: Representatives Griffin and Blewster and Senators Hamilton and Guenther. He added that two of the bill folders address the creation of a second Veterans home while the other two bill folders address the construction of a second State cemetery in Northern Arizona. Co-Chairman Griffin suggested that staff reassign the House bill folders to Representatives Carruthers and Flake and added that they have agreed to sponsor them.

Co-Chairman Griffin asked if a dollar amount had been fixed. Mr. Chorpenning explained that the appropriation lines on the proposed legislation have been left blank at this time. Co-Chairman Griffin encouraged Mr. Chorpenning to move forward on the legislation. Mr. Waara asked Mr. Chorpenning to explain why the line item would be left blank.

Mr. Chorpenning explained that, though there was no specific dollar amount, there is a commitment from the State to provide the land, which is a necessity because there is no reimbursement on the land from the federal government. He further explained the two phases involved in building a state cemetery; specifically the pre-application phase, in which all of the proposed construction documents must be reviewed and "signed off" by the Veterans Administration. He noted that all pre-application costs are reimbursed. With regards to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street State veterans home, the funding is split between the federal government (65%) and state government (35%). To reproduce and construct that veterans' home on the campus of the Tucson Medical Center would cost approximately \$15 to \$17 million.



Mr. Chorpenning explained that over the past two years the State has given ADVS, under the direction of its director, the ability to raise funds, primarily through Veterans' Donation Fund, to pursue grants and conduct various fund-raising activities. The intention of ADVS is to use these funds to offset some of the 35% state contribution. He stated that the Committee would have to address the appropriation aspects of this funding.

Mr. Chesley explained to Mr. Waara that the reason the appropriations lines are left blank is that an exact amount is unknown at this time. However, by the time the bill is assigned to committees, the amounts would be filled in via amendments. Mr. Chorpenning added that, though a bill might have favorable support, the Legislature is unclear what its financial obligations and status might be. For this reason, the bill might go through many committees in order to move it through the legislative process before being amended with a dollar amount.

Mr. Chorpenning iterated that the proposed veterans' home would, by and large, be based on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street veterans' home. He explained that this should realize a cost savings on the project. Mr. Chorpenning stated that he is in the process of trying to establish the process for adult day care for veterans, specifically, rules and regulations. He stated that this program would be the source for some modifications of the existing construction documents.

Ms. Blewster asked Mr. Chorpenning to review the proposed or anticipated per diem for adult day care. Mr. Chorpenning explained that there are no general fund monies that go to the veterans' home. The appropriations process is strictly for the purpose of getting spending authority. The \$9.5 million required to operate the veterans' home must be raised by ADVS. Currently, the per diem at the home is \$128. The anticipated per diem for the adult day care would be \$65 and after the veterans' home receives a \$30 contribution from the Veterans' Administration, the per diem cost to individuals would be approximately \$35. Another aspect of the adult day care is that it would provide a more seamless transition for those veterans who end up becoming full-time residents at the facility.

**Ms. Blewster moved that the Committee make the following recommendations:**

- **Continue the existing bill folders sponsored by Senators Hamilton and Guenther and Representatives Carruthers and Flake as sponsors.**
- **Pursue the veterans' hospital in Tucson, with designs to be modified according to suggested improvements/corrections.**
- **Go forward with private fund raising.**

**The motion carried.**

**Senator Bee moved that the Committee recommend that the Legislature move forward on the two bill folders pertaining to the northern veterans' cemetery, the location to be determined.**

Mr. Chorpenning clarified that there is an established fund of \$500,000 from the general fund and a veterans' home, contingency fund containing \$252,800. He added that once ADVS is reimbursed from the federal government the \$252,800 would go back to the contingency fund and that it would become a non-lapsing fund. These funds would then be used to develop the

pre-application aspects of the veterans' cemetery in northern Arizona. He explained that current statutory wording would need to be changed and that such could be added to the bill.

**Question was called on the motion that the Committee recommends that the Legislature move forward on the two bill folders pertaining to the northern veterans' cemetery, the location to be determined. The motion carried.**

Mr. Chorpenning noted that he had spoken with Bill Jane, of the Veterans Administration, who heads the state cemetery program. He stated that Mr. Jane indicated that they have received the final draft of the construction documents and they are in the process of reviewing them. He added that as far as the land transfer is concerned, the Department of Defense has received and reviewed the paperwork and forwarded it to Corps of Engineers in San Francisco who will review the documents and forward them to the Corps of Engineers in Phoenix. They will then review the documents with a fine-tooth comb and take three to five months to complete their work. At this point, ADVS would then apply political pressure to have these documents expedited through the remainder of the review process. Mr. Chorpenning stated that, under this timeline, construction could begin around March 2001 and be completed around March 2002.

Ms. Blewster asked Mr. Chorpenning if he would eliminate any aspect of the review process in order to expedite the project. Mr. Chorpenning explained that the myriad procedures are put in place so that the Department of Defense can demonstrate that, in the event of litigation, everything possible was done to protect the environment. He added that this is the reason he does not advocate that land belonging to any of the branches of service be considered as ADVS moves into northern Arizona.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

---

Seth Goodman, Committee Secretary

(Original minutes, attachments, and tapes are on file in the Office of the Chief Clerk.)

sg  
12/8/00

**ATTACHMENT A**



JANE DEE HULL  
GOVERNOR

**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**  
3225 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 910  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85012-2410  
(602) 255-3373 FAX (602) 255-1038

PATRICK F. CHORPENNING  
DIRECTOR

ARIZONA VETERAN POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Veteran Population \* 442,745 (FY 99-thru Sep 99)

Total VA Expenditures \$876,713,067

Comp. & Pension \$444,951,892

Medical Services \$333,802,433  
& Admin. Costs

Readjustment Bens. \$ 44,744,205  
& Voc. Rehab.

Insurance & \$ 42,942,045  
Indemnities

Construction & \$ 10,272,492  
Related Costs

1998 Population 447,580

Male 420,490

Female 27,090

\*Source—U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs

1998 County Population

Maricopa	241,700
Pima	85,040
Yavapai	25,510
Mohave	23,140
Pinal	15,950
Cochise	13,710
Yuma	11,770
Coconino	7,570
Gila	7,220
Navajo	5,790
Apache	2,950
Santa Cruz	2,410
Graham	2,250
La Paz	1,680
Greenlee	890
Total	447,580

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) MILITARY RETIREES

CONG. DIST.	TOTAL DOD	TOTAL DOD RECEIVING RETIRED PAY	ANNUAL AMT. OF RETIRED PAY
1	3,778	3,463	\$ 66,852,000
2	6,479	5,912	\$ 99,684,000
3	11,589	10,761	\$199,392,000
4	3,943	3,558	\$ 65,220,000
5	14,783	13,731	\$ 269,832,000
6	7,632	7,008	\$ 132,312,000
TOTAL	48,204	44,433	\$ 833,292,000

Total DOD retired includes retirees not receiving DOD retired pay for various reasons such as a retiree's refusal of retired pay, dual compensation, pay cap laws pertaining to Civil Service employment, Veterans Administration payments, etc. Figures do not include U. S. Coast Guard retirees.

## TOTAL VETERAN DEMOGRAPHIC

VETERAN POPULATION	442,745	TOTAL VA \$\$\$	\$876,713,067
MILITARY RETIREES	44,433	RETIRED PAY	\$833,292,000
TOTAL VETERANS	487,178	TOTAL \$\$\$	\$1,710,005,067

VETERANS IN ARIZONA

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF  
VETERANS IN AZ

487,178

ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT  
VETERANS BRING INTO ARIZONA

\$ 1,710,005,067

ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT BROUGHT  
INTO ARIZONA PER VETERAN

\$3,510.02

ADVS' FISCAL YEAR 2001  
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION

\$1,722,800\*

ADVS' GENERAL FUND APPROP.  
PER VETERAN PER MONTH

\$ 00.28

\*THIS AMOUNT INCLUDES A ONE-TIME APPROPRIATION OF \$ 69,000 FOR  
THE NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL.

*"THE WILLINGNESS WITH WHICH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO SERVE  
IN ANY WAR, NO MATTER HOW JUSTIFIED, SHALL BE DIRECTLY  
PROPORTIONAL AS TO HOW THEY PERCEIVE THE VETERANS OF EARLIER  
WARS WERE APPRECIATED BY THEIR NATION"*

.....GEORGE WASHINGTON

## **ATTACHMENT B**



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
VETERANS' FACILITIES SUMMARY TIMELINE**

- January 1, 2001: Introduce legislation to appropriate \$100,000.00 in Fiscal Year 2002 to conduct a needs assessment concerning a veterans' home located in Tucson, Arizona and a state veterans' cemetery located in northern Arizona
- January 1, 2003: Introduce legislation to appropriate monies in Fiscal Year 2003 in regards to the State's share of design and construction costs for the veterans' home in Tucson, Arizona and introduce legislation to appropriate monies to begin the veterans' cemetery project in northern Arizona (the monies appropriated for the veterans' cemetery project will be 95% to 100% reimbursable to the State of Arizona from the Federal Government)
- January 1, 2004: Introduce legislation to appropriate "start up" monies in Fiscal Year 2005 for the veterans' cemetery in northern Arizona and to appropriate limited "start up" monies for the veterans' home in Tucson, Arizona
- January 1, 2005: Introduce legislation to appropriate monies in Fiscal Year 2006 to operate and maintain the veterans' cemetery in northern Arizona and to appropriate additional "start up" monies in Fiscal Year 2006 for the veterans' home in Tucson, Arizona
- July 4, 2005: Open the veterans' cemetery in northern Arizona
- November 11, 2005: Open the veterans' home in Tucson, Arizona

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
ARIZONA STATE VETERANS' HOME - TUCSON  
PROJECT COST ESTIMATE**

<b>Expenditure Classification</b>	<b>Dollar Amount</b>
Administrative and Legal Expense	\$336,510.00
Architectural and Engineering Fees	\$953,440.00
Project Inspection Fees	\$20,000.00
Construction and Project Improvement Cost	\$11,577,600.00
Equipment	\$895,520.00
Miscellaneous Cost / Contingencies	<u>\$406,320.00</u>
Total Project Cost	<u>\$14,189,390.00</u>
Federal Share (65%)	\$9,223,104.00
State Share (35%)	\$4,966,286.00

Note: The above dollar amounts are based on actual costs in regards to the Arizona State Veterans' Home - Phoenix project that was completed in November 1995.

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
NORTHERN ARIZONA VETERANS' CEMETERY PROJECT COST ESTIMATE  
(PRIOR TO FEDERAL GRANT AWARD)**

**Land Acquisition Costs**

Title Transfer Fees	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$10,000.00</u>

**Professional Services**

Site Delineation	\$52,990.00
Architectural and Engineering Fees: Master Plan	\$113,073.00
Schematics	\$53,590.00
Reimbursables	\$41,225.00
Architectural and Engineering Fees: Construction Documents	<u>\$384,000.00</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$644,878.00</u>

**Separate Contracts**

Environmental Assessment	\$16,768.00
Reimbursables	\$530.00
Property Survey	\$10,227.00
Reimbursables	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$29,025.00</u>

**Contingency Allowance** \$68,390.00

**Total Cost** \$752,293.00

Note 1: The above dollar amounts are based on actual costs in regards to the southern Arizona veterans' cemetery project that is currently underway

Note 2: The Federal Government will reimburse 95% to 100% of the costs listed above and will also fund 100% of construction costs in regards to a state veterans' cemetery

**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
NORTHERN ARIZONA STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY  
ANNUAL OPERATING COST ESTIMATE**

<b>Expenditure Classification</b>	<b>Dollar Amount</b>
Personal Services (7 FTE)	\$186,100.00
Employee Related Expenditures (7 FTE)	\$44,664.00
Professional and Outside Services	\$58,212.00
Travel	\$1,542.00
Other Operating Expenditures	\$93,173.00
Equipment	<u>\$18,175.00</u>
Total	<u>\$401,866.00</u>
General Fund Expenditure Offset	(\$55,500.00)
Total General Fund Cost	\$346,366.00

Note 1: The operation and maintenance costs associated with the veterans' cemetery will be the responsibility of the State of Arizona

Note 2: The "General Fund Expenditure Offset" represents monies collected by the cemetery and used to offset the State's costs of operating and maintaining the cemetery

## **ATTACHMENT C**

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES



## *Mission Statement*

*"To deliver a series of seamless services to eligible veterans and their families and unify the veteran community by building alliances to enhance financial resources available to the community."*



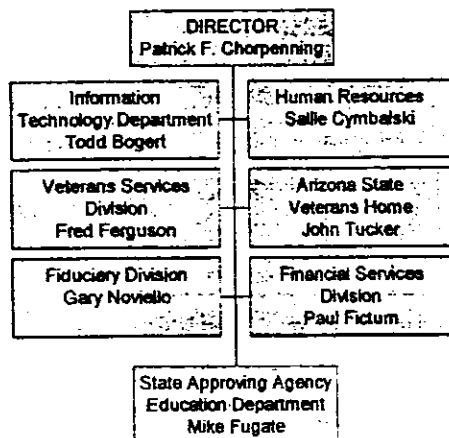
## ***VETERANS ECONOMIC IMPACT ON ARIZONA***

---

- ★ Approx. 487,178 Veterans currently live in Arizona
- ★ The VA spent \$876,713,067 on veterans benefits/compensation in Arizona
- ★ Veterans retired pay totaled \$906,700,860
- ★ Veterans brought a total of \$1.7 billion dollars into Arizona's economy (based on 1999 figures)



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES







## **VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION**

---

### ***Mission Statement***

*"To assist all veterans, their dependents and survivors in obtaining their entitled benefits; and to improve the public's perception of all veterans. "*



## ***VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION***

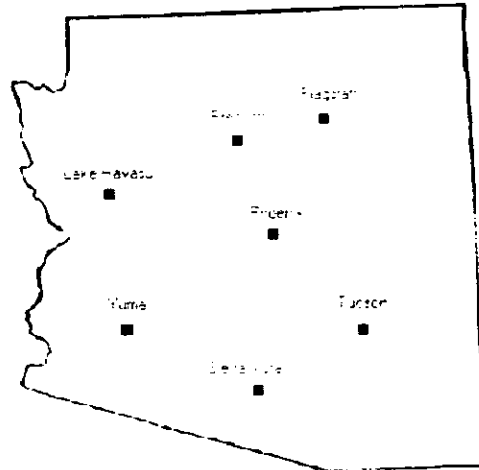
---

**VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION** provides a network of Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBC's) who give information, counsel and assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors in matters pertaining to federal and state benefits earned by honorable service in the armed forces of the United States. Veteran Benefits Counselors travel to all fifteen counties of the state. Division offices are located in Flagstaff, Lake Havasu City, Phoenix, Prescott, Sierra Vista, Tucson and Yuma.



## ***VETERANS SERVICES OFFICES***

---

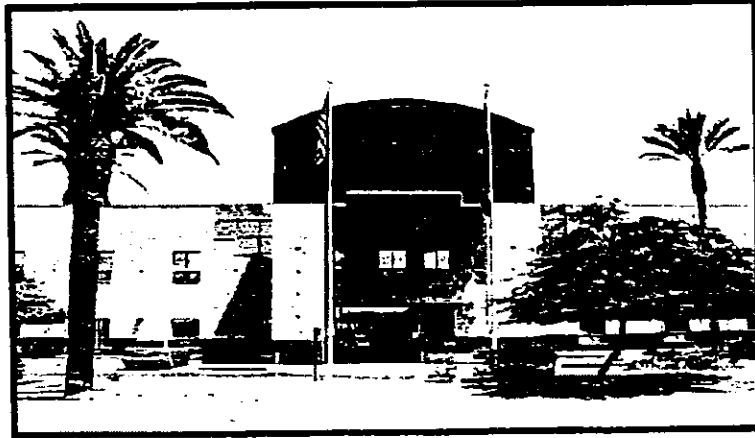


The Veterans  
Services  
Division has 7  
offices located  
throughout  
Arizona to  
better serve the  
veteran  
community



# *ARIZONA STATE VETERAN'S HOME*

---





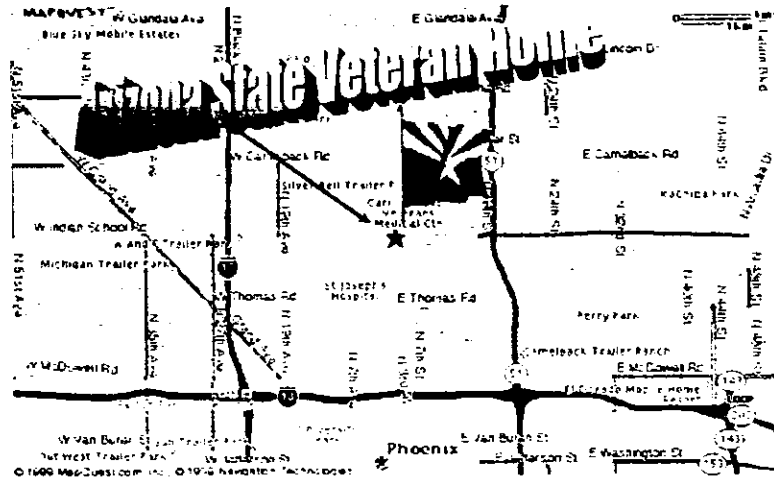
## **"SERVING AMERICA'S HEROES"**



*The* Arizona State Veteran Home is founded on the principle of providing compassionate, professional care to veterans who have become America's heroes through their commitment to freedom and democracy, often achieved at great personal sacrifice. It is with this mission that the Arizona State Veteran Home goes forward in offering the highest level of professional service, dedicated to serving those who have served our country.



# 4141 NORTH THIRD STREET PHOENIX, AZ 85012





## ***ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME WHO ARE WE?***

---

- ★ 200 BED SKILLED NURSING  
FACILITY DIVIDED IN TO 2  
IDENTICAL UNITS
- ★ 1 UNIT IS A 50 BED SECURED  
ALZHEIMER UNIT
- ★ THE HOME'S RESIDENTS ARE BOTH  
VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES



## *FUNDING*

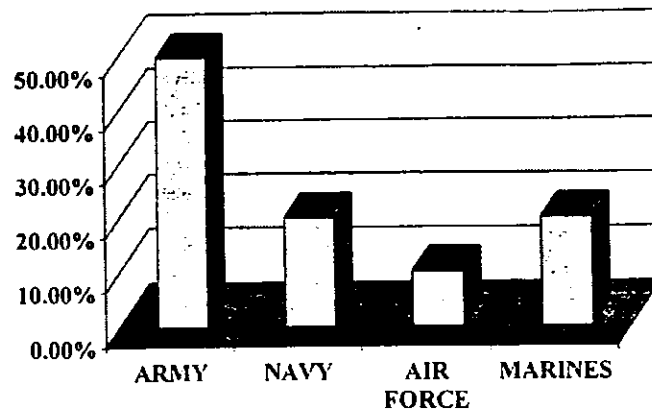
---

- ★PRIVATE
- ★MEDICARE
- ★MEDICAID
- ★VA
- ★DONATIONS
- ★GRANT MONEY





## WHO DO WE SERVE?





## ***SERVICES WE PROVIDE***

---

- ★ SKILLED NURSING
- ★ PHYSICAL, OCCUPATIONAL AND  
SPEECH THERAPY
- ★ RESTORATIVE SERVICE
- ★ REGISTERED DIETICIAN
- ★ SOCIAL SERVICES
- ★ THERAPEUTIC RECREATION



## *SERVICES WE PROVIDE*

---

- ★TRANSPORTATION
- ★HOSPICE CARE
- ★RELIGIOUS SERVICES
- ★BARBER SHOP
- ★GIFT SHOP



## ***EACH UNIT HAS:***

---

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| * DAY ROOM        | * PRIVATE AND    |
| * LAUNDRY ROOM    | SHARED BED       |
| * CENTRAL NURSES  | ROOMS            |
| STATION           | * SATELITE COLOR |
| * SNACK ROOM      | TV               |
| * DINING/ACTIVITY | * ELECTRIC BED   |
| ROOM              | DESIGN           |
| * OUTDOOR PATIOS  | * NURSE CALL     |
| * CLOSETS         | SYSTEM           |



## ***THE HOME ALSO HAS:***

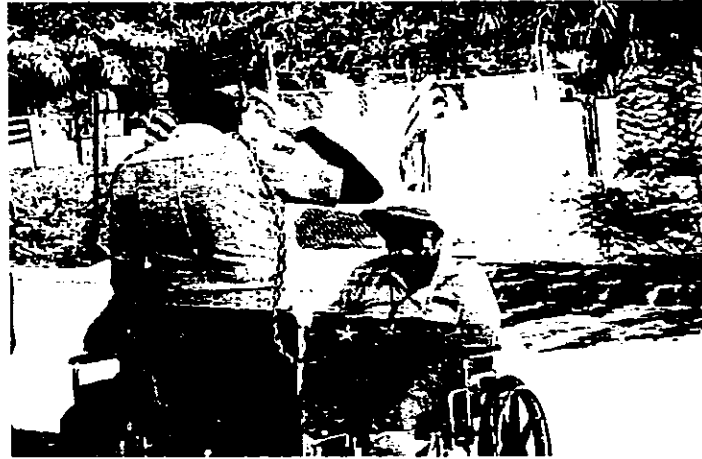
---

- \*STATE OF THE ART CLIMATE  
CONTROL SYSTEM
- \*WHIRLPOOL TUBS
- \*TWO REHABILITATION GYMS
- \*LIBRARY HALL
- \*AVIARY



## *OUR RESIDENTS*

---





## *OUR RESIDENTS*

---





## *OUR RESIDENTS*

---







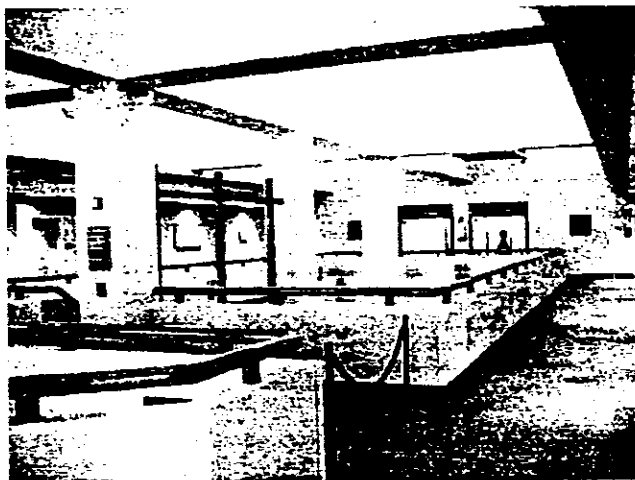
## ***VOLUNTEERS***





## *PROMENADE*

---





## *SITTING AREA*





## *DOWNSTAIRS LOBBY*



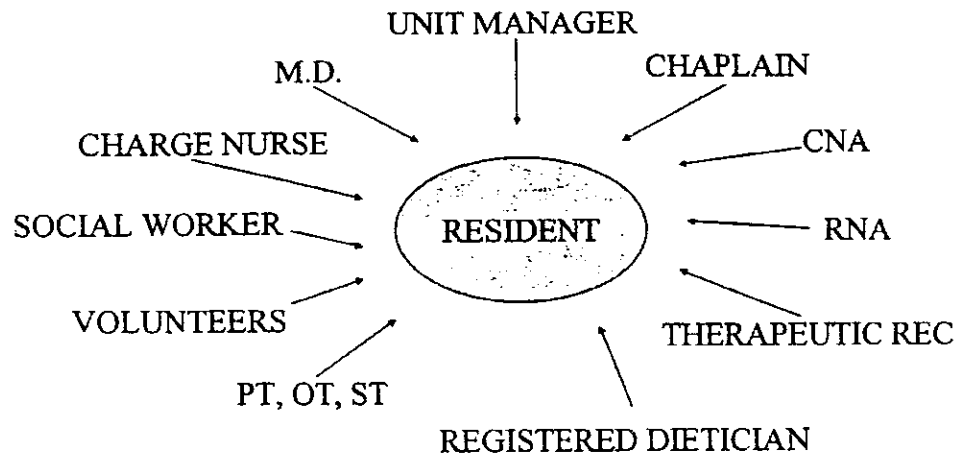


## *RESIDENT ROOMS*





## ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME FOCUS





## ***CURRENT ASVH RATES***

BASIC:	\$128.00 DAILY	\$3,968.00 MONTHLY	\$46,720.00 PER YEAR
VA PER DIEM*:	\$50.55 DAILY	\$1,567.00 PER MONTH	\$18,450.75 PER YEAR
ACTUAL COST:	\$77.45 DAILY	\$2,400.95 PER MONTH	\$28,269.25 PER YEAR

**\* PAID BY THE VA FOR VETERANS ONLY**



## ***CURRENT ASVH RATES***

ALZHEIMER:	\$135.00 DAILY	\$4,185.00 MONTHLY	\$49,275.00 PER YEAR
VA PER DIEM*:	\$50.55 DAILY	\$1,567.00 PER MONTH	\$18,450.75 PER YEAR
ACTUAL COST:	\$84.45 DAILY	\$2,617.95 PER MONTH	\$30,824.25 PER YEAR

\* PAID BY THE VA FOR VETERANS ONLY





## ***ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME ADVANTAGE***

---

- ★FINANCIAL INCENTIVES
- ★VA MEDICAL CENTER
- ★FREE OTC NEEDS
- ★SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS  
AFFILIATIONS
- ★MODERN DESIGN
- ★VETERAN CAMARADERIE



## ***FIDUCIARY DIVISION***

---

### ***Mission Statement***

*"To protect incapacitated veterans from exploitation and improve their quality of life."*



***The Fiduciary Division manages  
a program that serves as:***

---

- ★ Guardian,
- ★ Conservator, or
- ★ Representative payee

for incapacitated veterans, surviving spouses, and  
dependent children of protected veterans.

The Fiduciary Division also serves as personal  
representative for the estates of deceased  
veterans.



## ***FUNDING***

---

The Fiduciary Program Is Funded by Fees  
Charged to Clients for Serving As Their  
Guardian, Conservator,  
Representative Payee, or Personal  
Representative



## ***REFERRALS***

---

Veterans are referred to the Fiduciary Division from a variety of sources, including:

- ★ U.S Department of Veterans Affairs
- ★ Adult Protective Services,
- ★ Arizona State Hospital,
- ★ Other Fiduciaries
- ★ Family members, and
- ★ Veterans themselves



## ***APPOINTMENTS***

---

- ★ Appointments as guardian or conservator must be made by the Superior Court.
- ★ A guardianship appointment involves assuming responsibility for ensuring the client's physical and medical needs are met.
- ★ A conservatorship appointment involves assuming the responsibility for managing the client's estate.



## ***FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION***

---

In December 1998, a Financial Services Division was created to centralize control over the agency's financial and other financial-related operations, and a number of necessary staffing, procedural, and structural changes were made. Currently, the Financial Services Division is comprised of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services' Accounting Department, Purchasing Department, and Veterans' Home Business Office.



## *FINANCIAL SERVICES*

---

The Financial Services Division is  
responsible for managing the  
Department's \$11,989,300.00 Fiscal  
Year 2001 budget.



Microsoft Excel  
Worksheet





## *THANK YOU...*

---

To our men and  
women in uniform...  
past, present  
and future  
  
God bless you...  
and thank you.

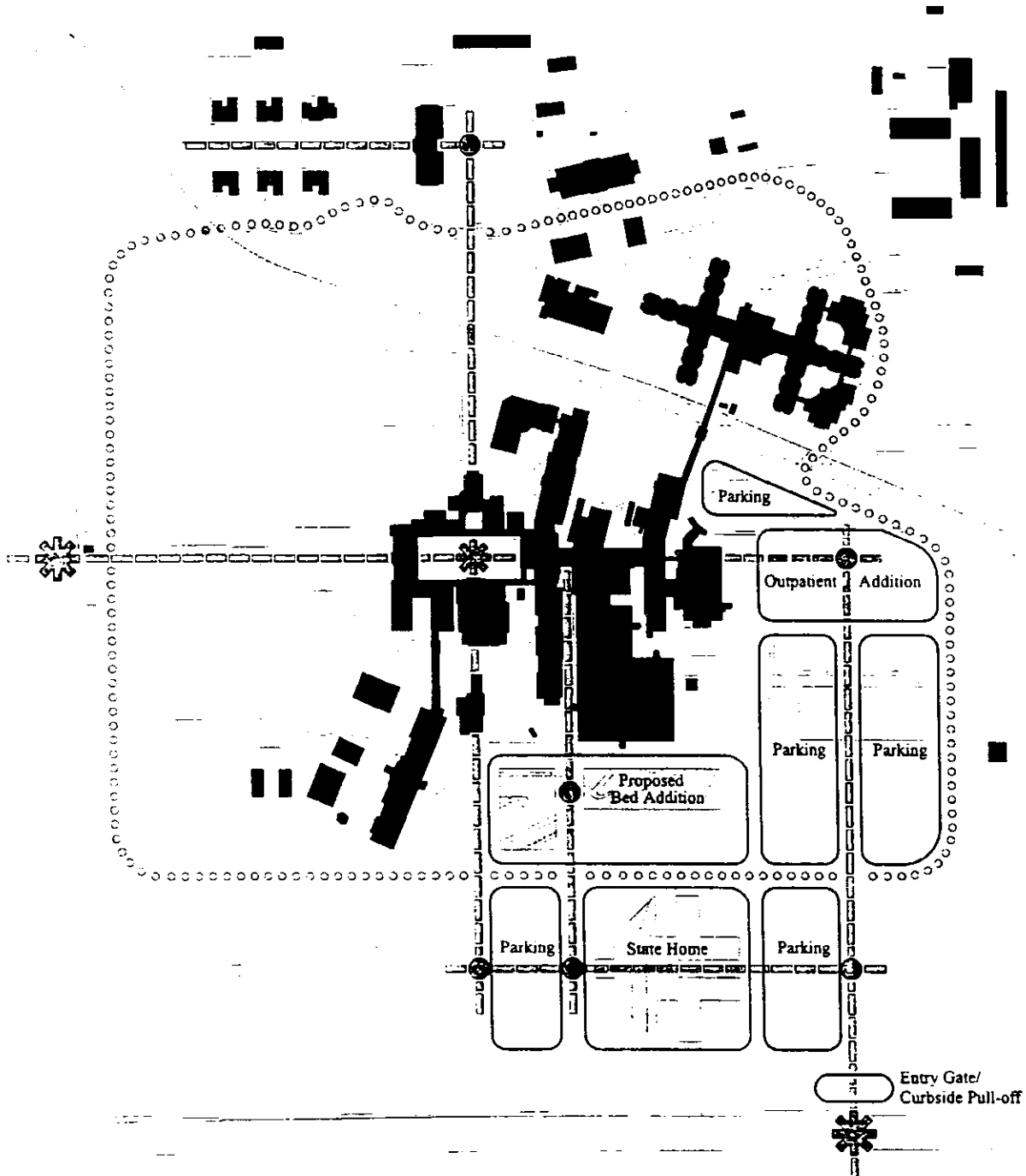
**ATTACHMENT D**

V.A. Medical Center, Tucson, Arizona  
AMBULATORY CARE ADDITION  
Project No.: 678-154  
*Architectural Space Program*

April 1, 1999

2 | Master Plan

0 50' 150' 300'



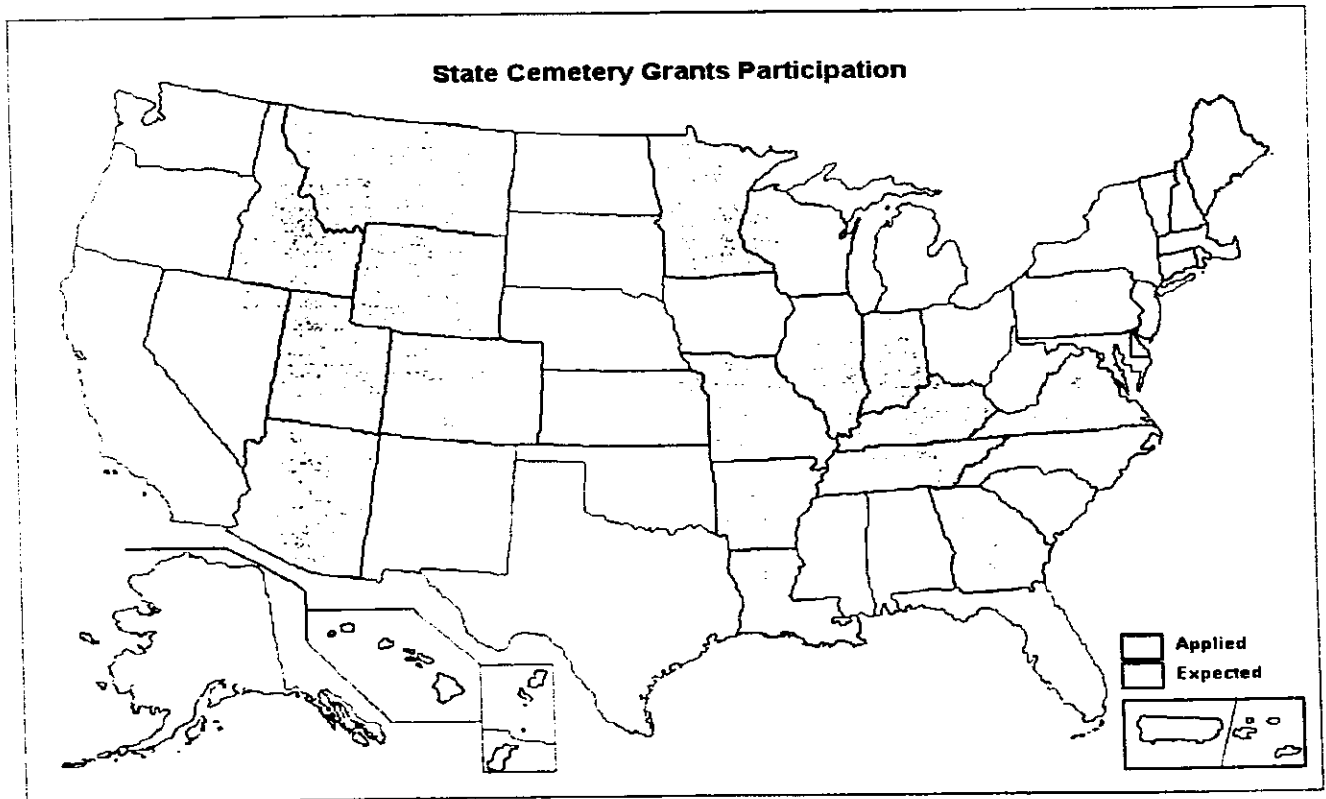
North

## **ATTACHMENT E**

# State Cemetery Grants Service

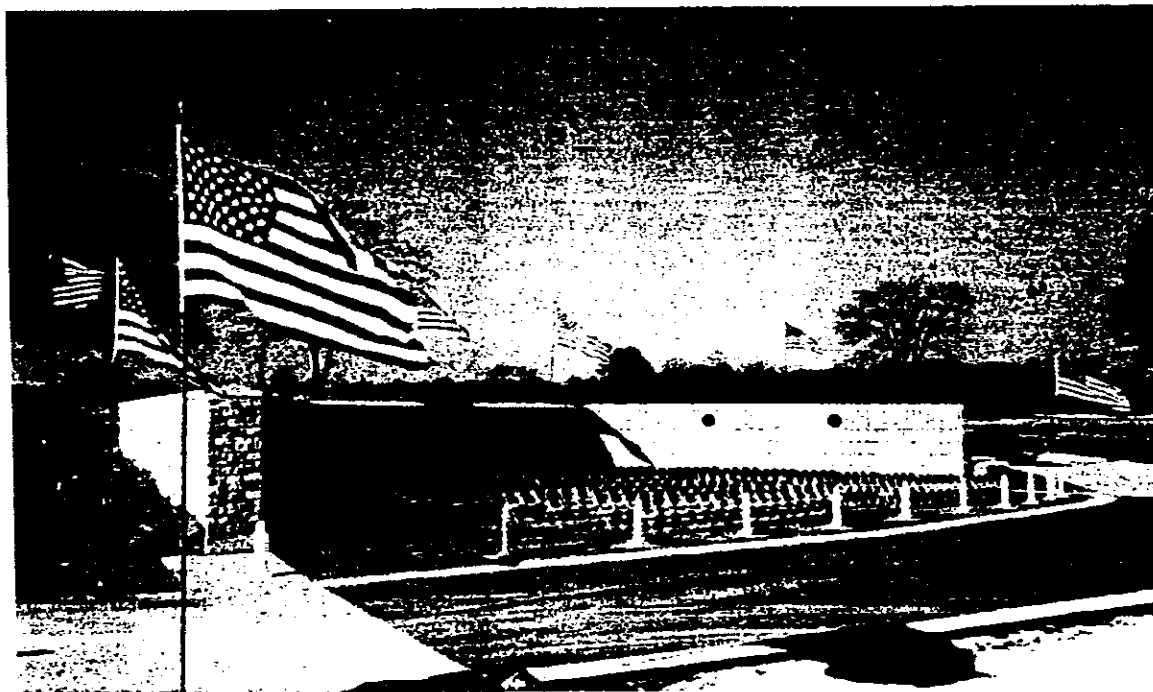
## Program History

- ❑ 1973 National Cemetery Act mandated study
- ❑ Bill introduced in 1974
- ❑ Authorized in 1978
- ❑ Funded in 1980
- ❑ One Hundred Percent funding in FY 1999



## Why State Cemeteries?

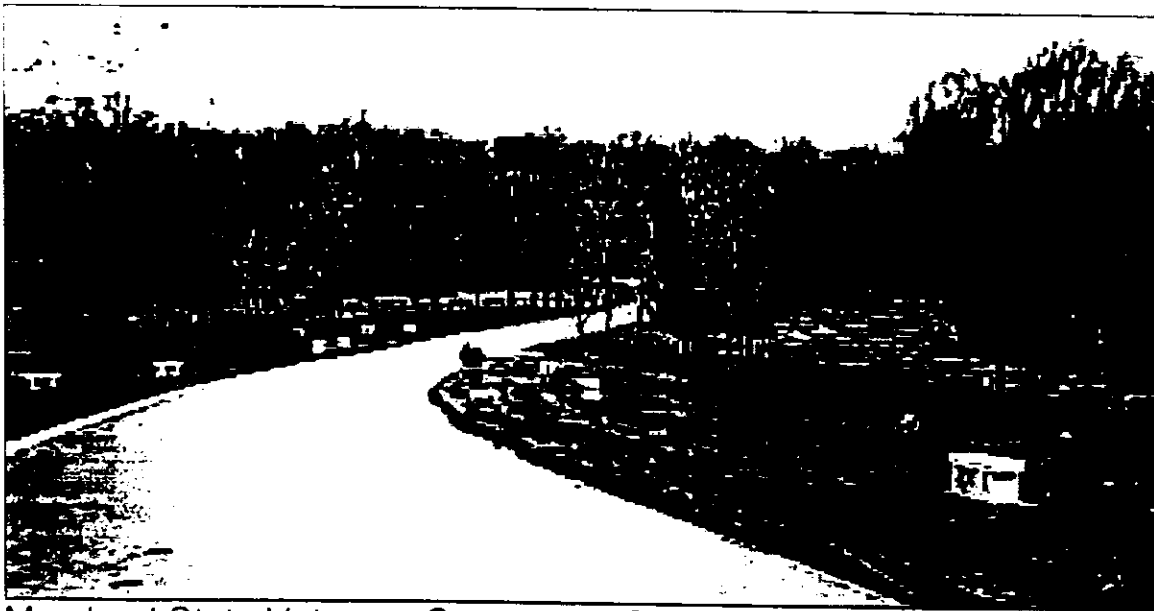
- ❑ Improve Service to Veterans
- ❑ Complement to NCS
- ❑ Provide service to remote locations
- ❑ State Tradition
  - ❑ State Cemeteries Since Civil War
  - ❑ State Ties to the Military
- ❑ Federal System of Government
- ❑ U.S. Government is a federation of states



*Columbarium and Assembly Area -- Missouri State Veterans Cemetery--  
Springfield*

## **One Hundred Percent Funding**

- ❑ We pay 100 percent of allowable costs
  - ❑ Design, construction, administration, etc.
- ❑ We pay for equipment (establishment only)
  - ❑ Mowing equipment, excavation equipment, burial equipment
  - ❑ Furniture, computers, etc.
  - ❑ We can provide a generic list
- ❑ We no longer pay for land
  - ❑ In 50/50 program we paid for land value
- ❑ Closer scrutiny of plans
  - ❑ Control costs, quality assurance
- ❑ State "fronts" design costs
  - ❑ We reimburse for work completed
- ❑ State Cemetery Grants Program Guide, PG 40-1
  - ❑ This is still our primary reference work



Maryland State Veterans Cemetery—Garrison Forest

## **Site Selection Standards**

- ❑ Location accessible to veteran population
- ❑ Avoid incompatible uses nearby
  - ❑ Consider noise, smells, traffic, views
- ❑ Topography should be suitable
  - ❑ Avoid overly flat land
  - ❑ Avoid steeply sloped land
- ❑ Soil conditions
  - ❑ Free from rock, muck, quicksand, etc.
  - ❑ Land should be able to support normal plant life
- ❑ Water table should be lower than maximum burial depth
- ❑ Utilities
  - ❑ Potable water available
  - ❑ Gas, electric, telephone should be readily available
  - ❑ Sewerage—approved method is required
- ❑ Sufficient size to meet demand
  - ❑ Based on needs assessment, project the cemetery's workload
  - ❑ Rule of thumb is 600 gravesites per acre (gross acres)
- ❑ Accessibility
  - ❑ Site should be readily accessible via highways

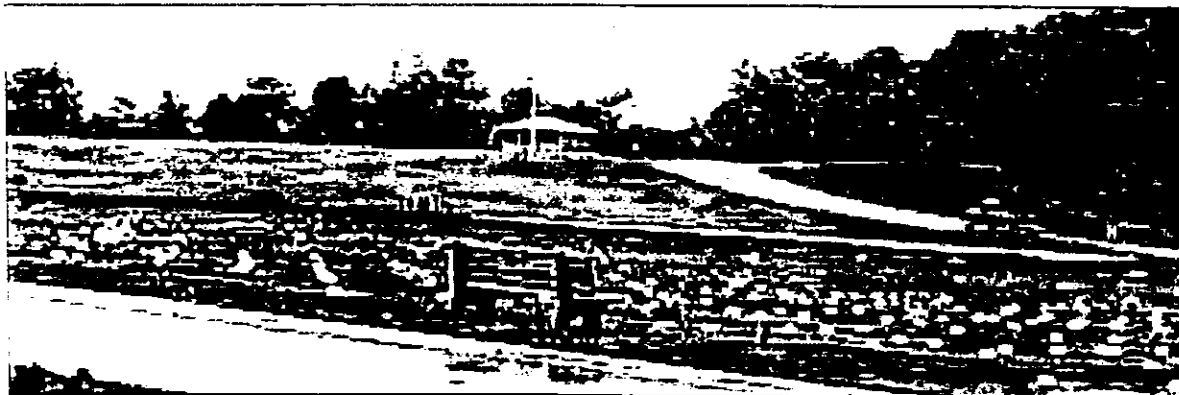


*Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery—Little Falls*



## **Environmental Compliance**

- ❑ National Environmental Policy Act
  - ❑ Prepare an Environmental Assessment leading to a FONSI
    - ❑ Transportation, air quality, noise, solid waste, utilities, geology (soils, hydrology, floodplains), water quality, land use, ecology (wetlands, endangered species), etc
    - ❑ Consult with all applicable state, local and federal reviewers
  - ❑ Hazardous Materials
    - ❑ Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS)
    - ❑ Visual inspection of site
  - ❑ Section 106—National Historic Preservation Act
    - ❑ Assess impact on historic and cultural resources
    - ❑ Consult with SHPO



*BG Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery—Wrightstown, New Jersey*

## **ATTACHMENT F**

## **Arizona Department of Veterans' Services State Cemetery in Southern Arizona**

### **State Cemetery Grants Program - Background:**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Cemetery Grants Program was established in 1978 to complement VA's National Cemetery Administration. The program assists states in providing gravesites for veterans in those areas where VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs. The National Cemetery Administration records indicate veterans living within a 75-mile radius of the facility will utilize the facility.

Arizona currently possesses one fully functioning veterans' cemetery in north Phoenix available to Arizona veterans. The National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona provides a final resting space for veterans and their eligible dependents, providing both in-ground burials and columbia niches. Prescott has a partially-closed national cemetery, providing interment of cremated remains only.

Records dating back to 1995 indicate that the Arizona veteran community had expressed concerns over burial arrangements for veterans living outside the metropolitan Phoenix area. After site selection endeavors in Tucson, Casa Grande and Sierra Vista; a site on Ft. Huachuca property was selected by the Commission. In November 1998, Ft. Huachuca documented its intention to transfer property to ADVS for use as a veterans' cemetery.

Under the original State Cemetery Grants law, the VA provided up to 50 percent of the total cost of establishing, improving or expanding a state veterans' cemetery, but could not provide for the cost of equipment needed to operate the cemetery. On November 11, 1998, the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act authorized the federal government to pay up to 100 percent of the costs described above. The VA State Cemetery Grant Service was additionally authorized to provide funding for equipment needed for new cemeteries. Arizona committed to be solely responsible for the administration, operation and maintenance of a VA-supported state cemetery after construction of the facility.

### **Legislation/Legal Authority:**

According to the Governor's Corrective Action Team (GCAT), ADVS needed start-up monies to cover the costs of architect engineering, title work, land transfer, environmental cleaning, as well as initial construction administration. The GCAT estimated that \$500,000 would be sufficient "seed money" for construction of the southern Arizona state veterans' cemetery.

An appropriation of \$500,000 was made by Laws 1999, First Regular Session, Chapter 133 to establish a veterans' cemetery in Southern Arizona (HB 2555) did not include costs for the architect and engineering firm to develop construction documents. Federal reimbursement cannot occur until the land has been conveyed to ADVS and the initial "seed money" was not fund the project through the construction phase.

In 2000, Arizona lawmakers were asked to appropriate an additional \$252,300. The Southern Arizona State Veterans' Cemetery Project was allowed to use funds from the Veterans' Home contingency line item in FY 1999-2000 (HB 2626). The Veterans' Home contingency fund will be reimbursed upon grant approval by the State Cemetery Grant Service (anticipated in mid-January 2001).

On the federal side, H.R. 1401, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000 was signed into law. Rep. Bob Stump included a provision authorizing the Army to transfer of 130 acres from Ft. Huachuca to the State of Arizona to establish a new state veterans' cemetery. The proposal passed in June of 1999 and the agency began working in earnest on an agreement with Fort Huachuca to convey title.

Ft. Huachuca required the submission of the following documents be compiled into a land conveyance package: site delineation provided by the architect and engineering firm designing the facility; legal description; ordinance sweep documentation; survey; aerial photography; water use analysis; environmental assessment; and interim geotechnical report. Initially, the land conveyance package was submitted 2/29/00 and the Environmental Assessment was finalized June 14, 2000. Subsequently, the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) provided project clearance and the last document was filed into the land conveyance package August 28 2000.

Ft. Huachuca submitted the land conveyance package to the Department of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). TRADOC forwarded the package to the Department of the Army 9/25/00. Conveyance of Army property must go through additional steps before legal title is conveyed to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services<sup>1</sup>.

The southern Arizona state veterans' cemetery is slated to open in March 2002.

---

<sup>1</sup> TRADOC typically requires 30 days to process land transfer paperwork before sending it to the Department of the Army. The Department of the Army processes the paperwork in 45 days before forwarding to the Departments of Defense and Justice. Those two agencies average between 45 and 90 days before forwarding the package to the US Corp of Engineers. The final step in the land transfer process adds an additional 45 to 60 days before the title is conveyed to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

## **ATTACHMENT G**

## **REFERENCE FOR SITE SELECTION**

With reference to the proposed Northern Arizona Cemetery the following notes have been accumulated:

- Land options by color:      **White:**              **Private Land**  
   **Light Green:**      **National Forest**  
   **Blue:**              **State Trust**  
   **Pink:**              **Military**
- The average cost to purchase land in Flagstaff and the surrounding area is approximately \$10,000 per acre. (A minimum of 35 acres will be required.)

### **Acquisition of National Forest Property Requirements:**

- "Townsite Act" which enables the sale of up to 640 acres for "Uses of Public Good"
- All property is sold under the authority of the Bureau of Land Management
- The property is sold at "fair market value" for approximately \$10,000 per acre
- The sale must go through the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process
- The exchange of land takes approximately 1.5 years

### **Options for National Forest Property:**

- Enlist the support of one or more federal legislators to introduce a bill for an "Act of Congress." While this would still go through the federal legislative process, the process would not take any longer than other acquisitions.
- The legislation could be used for any type of federal property, including forest service.
- The "Act of Congress" would allow the property to be acquired at no cost

### **Acquisition of State Land:**

- Buyer applies to State Land Commissioner
- Commissioner must approve sale of the land
- Property is advertised in local papers for a minimum of ten (10) weeks for a fee of approximately \$2,000.00

- The land bid starts at a minimum estimated by "fair market value" (3<sup>rd</sup> party does land appraisal)
- The buyer competes with other bidders to purchase the land package
- The exchange process takes approximately two (2) years and is not guaranteed due to the bidding process

### **Military Land:**

The Navajo Army Depot land west of Flagstaff could be acquired through the same process that the Department has experienced with the planned cemetery in Sierra Vista. However, there will be a considerable amount of environmental issues with the reuse of that land due to the nature of its use over the last several decades; including asbestos and potential toxic waste.

### **Potential issues for Land in Flagstaff:**

- Elevation over 3,500 feet above sea level is habitat to the Mexican Spotted Owl
- Areas with water running through the property require 404 permits from the Corp. of Engineers
- Native American Habitations have higher incidence of ruins, pottery and graves